GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2985
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2002
FORMULATION OF NEW POLICY FOR STEEL SECTOR
JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the achievement made in the steel sector during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to formulate a new policy for the steel sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY)

(a) Over the last 3 years from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 the Indian iron and steel industry has witnessed major achievements in different spheres of operation. The crude steel production has increased by over 12% and the capacity utilization has improved from 76% to 82%. The production of Sponge Iron has also witnessed a steady rise over the last three years and today India is the largest producer of Sponge Iron in the world. In the area of trade, despite trade barriers put up by various countries, India has been able to maintain its net exporter status. The export basket too has shifted toward value added goods. The apparent consumption of finished steel has risen by over 9% during this period. In the area of policy, some measures have been taken to check the surge in import of seconds/defectives and the tax structure has also been rationalized to the benefit of the steel industry in general.
(b)&(c): Yes, Sir. Government has decided to formulate a National Steel Policy to draw out the road map for the iron and steel industry in the context of second generation reforms, restructuring and globalization. A draft Committee under the Chairmanship of Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel has been set up to prepare the Draft National Policy. The Committee has prepared a first draft and the same is under examination in consultation with major steel producers and associations.